Amendments to the Specification:

Please **add** the Priority Information paragraph to the specification by inserting the following new paragraph before the first line of the specification:

This application is a National Stage Application filed under 35 U.S.C.§ 371 of PCT/GB2003/004456, filed on October 14, 2003, which claims priority of GB Application No. 0223990.3, filed October 15, 2002.

After the title and before the text, please insert the following line:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, please insert the following line:

--BACKGROUND --

Before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 6 please insert the following line:

--SUMMARY--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10 with the following amended paragraph.

--In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an assembly comprising an elastic sleeve mounted in a radially stretched condition on a ~~tubular~~ hold-out member that extends therebeyond at one end of the sleeve, wherein the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member includes a plurality of regions of weakness extending circumferentially therearound and discretely spaced apart along the length thereof.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

Thus, in accordance with the present invention, a series of circumferential discrete regions of weakness allow the tubular hold-out member to remain in its tubular form as it is pulled back through itself. During this step, the hold-out member may be extended in length by a factor of 20% to 200% depending on design details, but this extension is significantly smaller

than that obtained with existing helical hold-outs, so that the operator can conveniently pull the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member around the substrate so as to recover the sleeve thereonto. During the recovery process of the sleeve onto the substrate, the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member becomes stretched and has the form of a plurality of generally cylindrical rings interconnected by cylindrical hinges, thus generally retaining its tubular configuration throughout the recovery process.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

--Preferably the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member is of a substantially right-cylindrical configuration, and the regions of weakness extend circumferentially substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis thereof.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

--Advantageously, each region of weakness extends substantially continuously around the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

--The regions of weakness may comprise indentations extending into the wall of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member. Indentations may extend from the inner surface only, or from the outer surface only, or, preferably, from both surfaces. In the latter configuration, indentations from each surface may alternate along the length of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member, and it is envisaged that a few, for example two, indentations from one surface, preferably the inner surface, may alternate with one indentation from the outer surface.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

--In an alternative configuration, the regions of weakness may be provided by the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member being of convoluted configuration.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 with the following amended paragraph.

--The regions of weakness, for example indentations, or slits, may extend a different length longitudinally of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member depending on whether they extend from the inner or from the outer surface. Advantageously, the inner regions of weakness are longer than the outer regions of weakness.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 with the following amended paragraph.

--The regions of weakness may effectively divide the tubular hold-out member longitudinally, into a plurality of contiguous rings, the number of rings being dependent on the length of the sleeve and thus of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member. However, typically there may be more than fifty such rings, and as many as sixty or seventy for a sleeve of 400mm length.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 5 with the following amended paragraph.

--The ratio of the depth of the regions of weakness transversely to the length of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member to the separation of the regions of weakness longitudinally of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member is at least 1:1, and may be 2:1, or more. However, it is also envisaged that this ratio may be as low as 1:3.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10 with the following amended paragraph.

--Whilst, in order to release the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member from inside the stretched sleeve when the assembly is disposed around an elongate substrate, the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member extends beyond the sleeve at at least one end thereof, it is preferable that the extension is at least equal to the length of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member holding out the sleeve, so that the extension can be directed from the end back through the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member so as to allow it to be grasped beyond the other end of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member thereby to facilitate inverting the

~~tubular~~ hold-out member and pulling it back through itself so as progressively to release the elastic sleeve down onto the substrate.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 19 with the following amended paragraph.

--Advantageously the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member comprises a thermoplastic material or blends thereof, including cross linked thermoplastic material. Suitable materials are polypropylene (PP), polyethylene (PE), acrylonitrilebutadienstryene (ABS), polypropylene/ethylenepropylenediene monomer (PP/EPDM) and cross-linked polyethylene (V-PE).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

--The ~~tubular~~ hold-out member should, in general, be of such a configuration and constructed of such a material that allows its deformation and/or cracking to facilitate it being inverted and withdrawn back through itself. That is to say, it must be able to change from a state of being mechanically stable with regards to radial pressure, to one in which, whilst retaining a generally tubular shape, it can be inverted and reduce in diameter for withdrawal through itself; the regions of weakness allow this to occur. It will be appreciated, however, that the material of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member has to be selected appropriately. Thus, the more rigid the material is, the thinner the wall thickness must be.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11 with the following amended paragraph.

--The ~~tubular~~ hold-out member may be formed by a moulding process, for example injection moulding or blow moulding, or by an extrusion process.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 23 with the following amended paragraph.

--In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of enclosing an elongate substrate using an assembly ~~according to anyone of the preceding claims,~~ wherein the assembly is positioned around the substrate with the stretched sleeve longitudinally disposed over its final required position with the extension of the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member located invertedly in the annular region between the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member and the substrate, wherein, whilst maintaining the sleeve in its required position, the free end of the extension is pulled so as to invert the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member supporting the sleeve and to withdraw it through itself along the annular region until it is completely removed from the sleeve, thereby allowing the sleeve progressively to recover radially onto the substrate.--

Before the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 16 please insert the following line:
--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Before the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, please insert the following line:
--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 8, line 21 with the following amended paragraphs.

--Referring to Figures 1 to 4, an assembly comprises a cylindrical ~~elastomeric~~ elastic sleeve 2 that is retained in a radially expanded configuration on a rigid right-cylindrical hold-out member 4. The hold-out member 4 comprises a first, outer portion 6 that supports the sleeve 2, and, contiguous therewith, an inner portion 8 that is folded back at one end of the sleeve 2, passes within the ~~tubular member~~ outer portion 6 and then emerges from the other end of the assembly.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

--As can be seen in Figure 2, the hold-out member 4 has rectangular slits extending

thereinto at longitudinally spaced apart locations, with a first set of slits 10 extending from the inner surface and a second set of slits 12, alternating therewith, extending from the outer surface. The slits 10 and 12 extend continuously circumferentially around the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member 4 in planes that are substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 14 of the assembly.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

--Referring specifically to Figures 3 and 4, the assembly is shown after it has been slid into position over a cylindrical substrate 16. As shown, the inverted free end 9 of the inner portion 8 of the hold-out member 4 is being pulled so as to bring about progressive inversion of the outer ~~tubular~~ portion 6, with the result that as the outer portion 6 is progressively withdrawn, the sleeve 2 recovers radially onto the surface of the substrate 16. Complete withdrawal of the hold-out member 4 in this way will result in the entire length of the sleeve 2 recovering into close conformity with the substrate 16.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 17 with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 4 shows how the inversion and withdrawal of the hold-out member 4 is facilitated by the presence of the circumferential slits 10 and 12, the arrows X indicating the direction of movement of the hold-out member 4, and the arrows Y indicating the direction of recovery of the sleeve 2.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 with the following amended paragraph.

--Thus, as the inner ~~tubular member~~ portion 8 is pulled in the direction X it peels away from the sleeve 2, and the inner slits 10 allow the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member 4 to compress as it inverts, the inversion being facilitated by the outer slits 12 allowing the ~~tubular~~ hold-out member 4 to stretch upon inversion, with the slits 10 and 12 remaining stretched as the inner portion 8 is then withdrawn through the annular region between the rigid portion of the hold-out member 4 and the substrate 16.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 5 shows a section through the wall of a further embodiment of a tubular hold-out member 20 which has been formed in a mould so as to be of convoluted configuration with a set of generally U-shaped outer troughs 22 alternating with generally U-shaped inner troughs 24 to provide alternating inner and outer regions of weakness extending circumferentially around the tubular hold-out member 20.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 10 with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 6 shows the tubular hold-out member 20 after having been subject to a longitudinal compression so as substantially to close up the troughs 22 and 24 so as to provide a substantially smooth outer surface for the tubular hold-out ~~tubular~~ member 20 for receiving a radially stretched elastic ~~elastomeric~~ sleeve 2 thereon.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 15 with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 7 shows a section through the wall of a still further embodiment of a tubular hold-out member 30 which has been formed in a mould so as to be of convoluted configuration with a set of outer troughs 32 alternating with inner troughs 34 to provide inner and outer regions of weakness extending circumferentially around the tubular hold-out member 30. In this embodiment, the innermost and outermost walls of the tubular hold-out member 30 are relatively thick and are interconnected by relatively thin, and thus more flexible, side portions 36.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 23 with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 8 shows the tubular hold-out member 30 after having been subject to a longitudinal compression so as substantially to close up the troughs 32 and 34 so as to provide a

substantially smooth outer surface for the tubular hold-out ~~tubular~~ member 30 for receiving a radially stretched elastic ~~elastomeric~~ sleeve 2 thereon.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

-- Figure 9 shows another embodiment of tubular hold-out member 37 of convoluted configuration with the inner space regions 38 being wider than the outer space regions 39. Whether longitudinal compression of the embodiments of Figures 5, 7 and 9 is necessary, and to what extent, will depend on the material of the tubular hold-out member 37 and on the material of the elastic sleeve 2, especially on the hardness thereof. Thus, the harder a material is selected for the sleeve 2, the less likely it is to deform into the ~~openings~~ outer space regions 39 at the outside of the tubular hold-out member 37, and the greater the length of the ~~openings~~ outer space regions 39 longitudinally of the member can be. In the case of a multi-layer sleeve, its inner or innermost layer may be of a harder material than outer layer(s). In this way, deformation into the outer space regions 39 of weakness of the tubular hold-out member 37 can be avoided, or at least ~~minimised~~ minimized, whilst still providing sufficient radially-inwards pressure to ensure full recovery onto a substrate.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

--Referring to Figure 10, a tubular hold-out member 40 is shown schematically with relatively narrow slits 42 formed in its outer surface, and alternating therewith, relatively wide slits 44 in its inner surface. This represents the preferred general configuration of the tubular hold-out member 40 of the assembly of the invention. Also, this figure shows by way of example a ratio of the wall thickness H of the tubular hold-out member 40 to the longitudinal length W of the sections thereof between successive regions of weakness of approximately 2:1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraph.

--In a further embodiment of tubular hold-out member 60 shown schematically in Figure

12, slits 62 in the outer surface thereof are relatively short, compared with the slits 52 of the ~~tube~~ tubular hold-out member 50 (Figure 11) whilst being spaced apart at substantially the same distance, giving a ratio of the wall thickness H to the longitudinal extension W of the ring element of 1:3, for example.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 11 with the following amended paragraph

--It will be appreciated that each embodiment of hold-out member shown in Figures 10, 11 and 12 present a substantially-smooth outer surface for receiving the ~~elastomeric~~ elastic sleeve 2.--

An abstract on a separate sheet is attached as required under 37 CFR 1.72(b). Please insert the attached abstract, following the claims.